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The President's Daily Brief

9 July 1969

19

~~*Top Secret*~~

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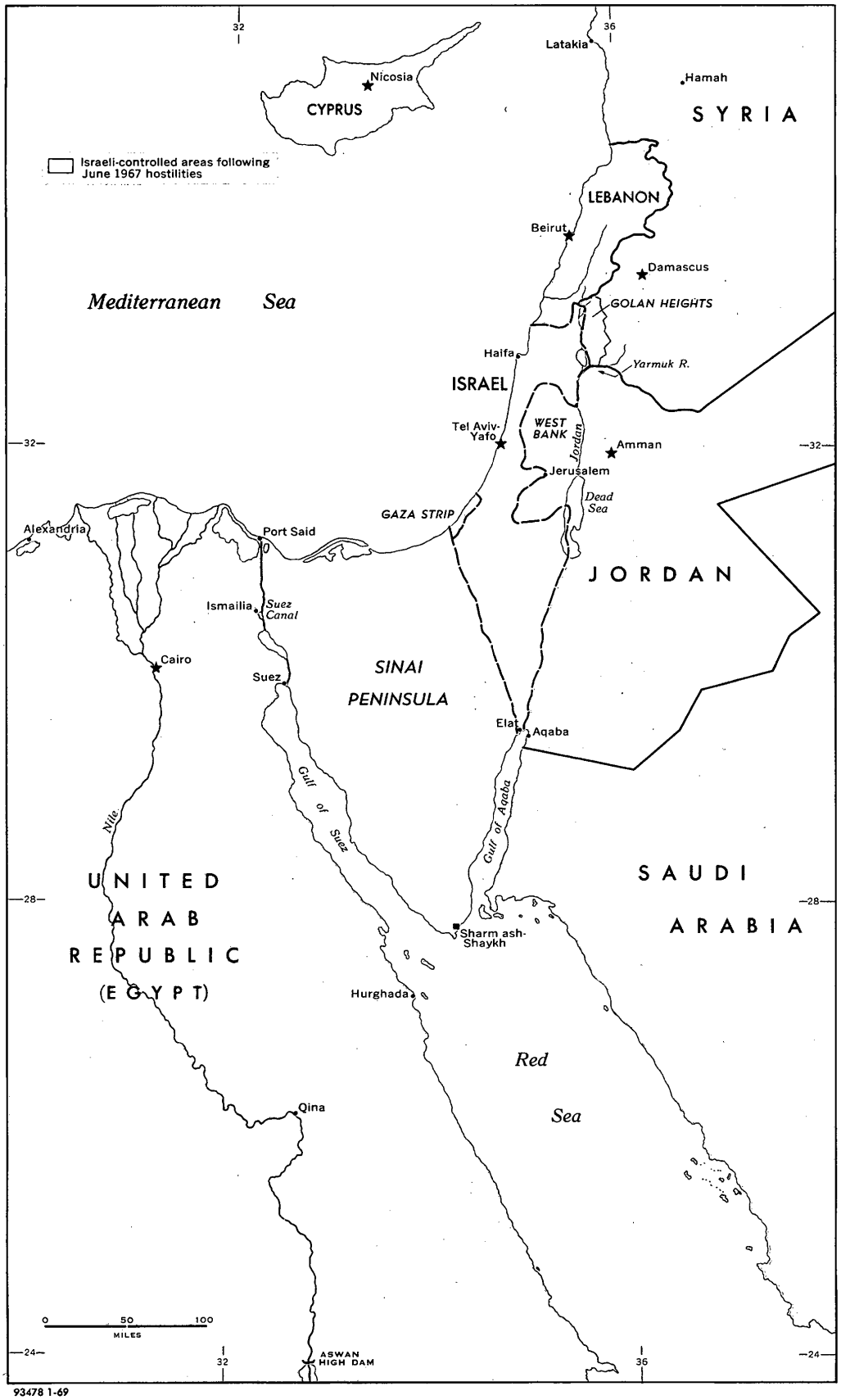

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

The Arabs seem to have gotten much the worst of the recent aerial fighting along the cease-fire lines. The Israelis, who are reasonably reliable in their military claims, say they have shot down 13 MIG-21s so far this month. Six of these were Egyptian--four on 1 July and two more on the 7th. Yesterday, in the largest air engagement with Syria since the 1967 war, Israel claimed seven MIG-21s out of a total of 58 in the Syrian inventory. Tel Aviv has denied losing any aircraft during these encounters.

Ground fighting has died down along the Jordan River in recent days, but the Suez Canal continues to be the scene of heavy daily firefights. In addition to the usual artillery and small-arms exchanges, Egypt sent another commando group across the canal on 7 July, with little apparent success.

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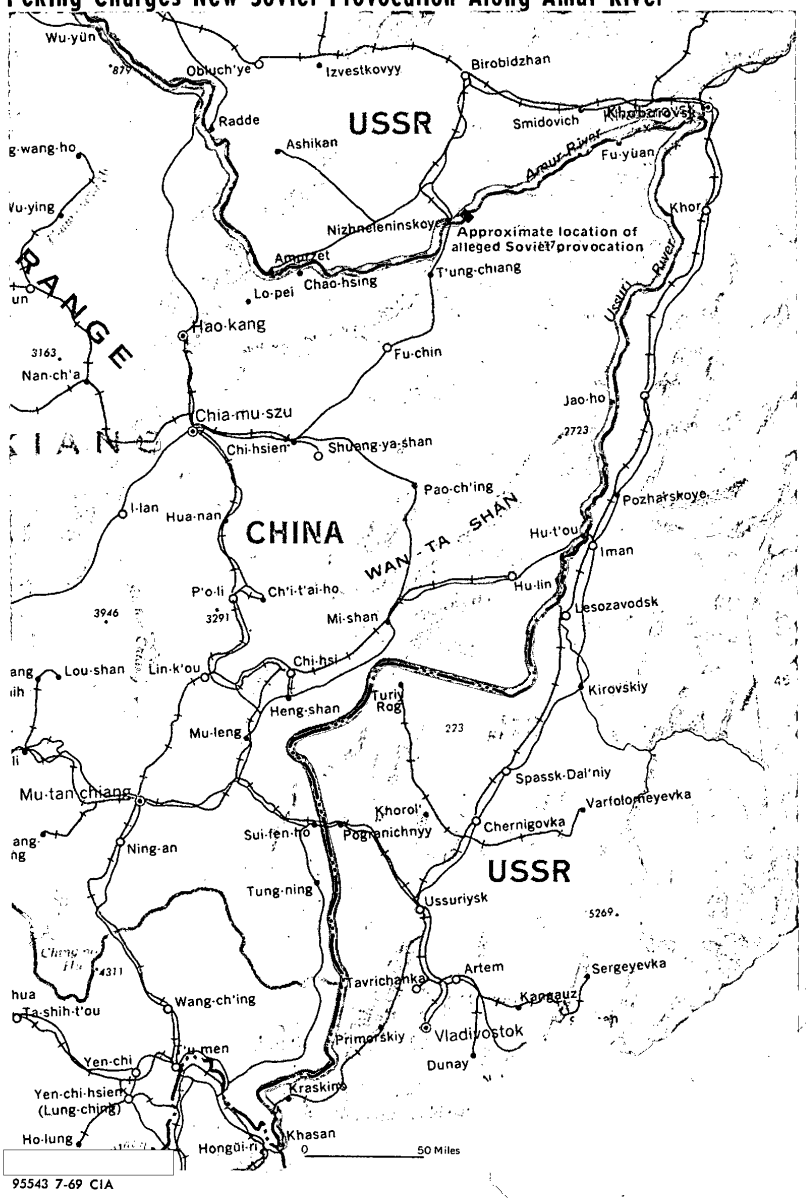
Peking Charges New Soviet Provocation Along Amur River



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VIETNAM

Hanoi again has passed up an opportunity to release the three US prisoners. Yesterday's ICC flight returned to Vientiane from Hanoi with no Americans on board.

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There is nothing significant to report on Soviet Affairs or Europe.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KENYA

Tom Mboya's fellow Luo tribesmen battled police in Nairobi during his funeral yesterday, and attacks by Luo crowds on individual Kikuyus continue.

Security forces probably can handle disturbances in the capital, which is in the heart of Kikuyu country. Kenyan officials are more concerned about potential trouble as the funeral cortege travels overland to western Kenya, where the bulk of the million-and-a-half Luo are concentrated. Mboya's family vetoed a plan to fly his body home.

COMMUNIST CHINA - SOVIET UNION

Peking's public charge yesterday of a new Russian provocation along the Amur River frontier may signal the breakdown of the Sino-Soviet border river navigation talks in Khabarovsk.

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It was the first specific border violation allegation by either side since the talks began on 18 June; Moscow later issued a version of its own. The Khabarovsk sessions were expected to bog down over the question of disputed islands in the Ussuri and Amur river frontiers and the larger territorial claims Peking has been pressing on Moscow. Although neither side has as yet publicly commented on the talks, Soviet officials privately have reported that they remain deadlocked.

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